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# Selectmen declare war on excess signs

By John Chaffee  
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## Duxbury

DUXBURY — In rejecting a request from the First Parish Church, selectmen signaled they want fewer rather than more signs on the roads leading into town.

"We're coming on to sign pollution," said Chairman James Murphy.

Director of Inspectional Services Richard MacDonald recommended the selectmen turn down the church's proposal to erect two Unitarian Universalist highway signs on Route 3A and one sign on Route 14.

"There's no uniformity and a proliferation of signs at the town entrances," MacDonald said.

Armed with a bylaw that grants them the authority to prohibit the placement of private signs on public property, the selectmen voted 3-0 to reject the First Parish Church proposal.

Susan Taylor, who represented the church at the meeting, had told them that when she first contacted town hall about putting the signs up, she was told, "You don't need a permit and there's no charge."

But MacDonald and the selectmen agreed there are too many signs

already, some of which may have been erected without permission.

"Those service organizations don't need signs to get people to attend their meetings," Murphy said.

He was referring to Rotary Club, Kiwanis and Jaycee signs that appear on Route 3A just off Exit 10 of Route 3 and on Route 14 at Exit 11.

The church proposed erecting circular black and white signs 30 inches

in diameter. The words "Unitarian Universalist" run around the outside with the denomination's lamp of learning logo in the center.

Another section of the bylaw gives selectmen the authority to approve temporary promotional signs or displays on public or privately owned property.

But MacDonald told selectmen many such signs routinely are erected around town without selectmen's permission.

Murphy told him it was his responsibility to enforce the bylaw, and MacDonald agreed.